



CIRM Statement on NIH hESC Lines

A recent article by Robert Streiffer “Informed Consent and Federal Funding for Stem Cell Research” in *Hastings Center Report May-June 2008*, identifies ethical concerns associated with specific NIH-approved embryonic stem cell lines. As a result of this publication, CIRM has received inquiries regarding the acceptability of NIH-registry lines in CIRM-funded research.

CIRM strives for compatibility with state and national policies intended to advance stem cell science. Pursuant to this policy objective section 100080(a)(1)(A) of title 17 of the California Code of Regulations recognizes all stem cell lines approved by the National Institutes of Health as “acceptably derived.” This policy remains unchanged; therefore, all NIH-registry lines are eligible for use in CIRM-funded research. Should the NIH change its policy with regard to any specific registry-line, the CIRM regulations would incorporate such changes.

CIRM maintains a standing advisory group, the Medical and Ethical Standards Working Group, that can be convened if the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee believes the policy needs to be revisited. Currently there are no plans to amend CIRM’s existing policy regarding use of NIH-registry lines.